

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph extending from page 3, line 3 to page 3, line 9 with the following new paragraph:

The aforementioned needs are addressed by the present invention. Accordingly there is provided ~~[[,A]]~~ a wildcarded security policy method. The method includes associating wildcarded resource identifiers with a corresponding security policy. A resource identifier received in an access request is matched to one of a list of said wildcarded resource identifiers ~~[[,]]~~. Matching is determined in accordance with a predetermined set of precedence values, each precedence value of the set corresponding to a predetermined wildcard element.

Please replace the paragraphs extending from page 9, line 4 through page 10, line 18 with the following new paragraphs:

Refer now to FIGURE 5 illustrating methodology 500 for generating an ordered list of wildcarded identifiers. In step 502, a wildcarded identifier list is generated. In ~~order~~ An ordered list of wildcarded identifiers may be generated in accordance with the principles of the present invention by steps 504-518 in conjunction with a sorting routine such as are known in the data processing art. ~~Once~~ One such routine is known as a Heapsort. *See e.g.* WILLIAM H. PRESS ET AL., NUMERICAL RECIPES 229-232 (1986). Other sorting routines, known in the art, which may be used are insertion techniques. *See id.* at 227-229. In each of these, a pairwise ordering of wildcarded identifiers are relatively ordered, thus, in step 504, a pair of wildcarded identifiers to be relatively ordered is selected in accordance with the particular sorting algorithm being used. The relative ordering is then established in accordance with steps 506-514.

In step 506, the first element in each identifier of the pair selected in step 504 are selected. The first element of each identifier of the pair is selected in accordance with the direction for matching selected in step 402, FIGURE 4. In step 508, it is determined if the elements selected have the same precedence. The precedence is determined in

accordance with a precedence table. A precedence table which may be used in an embodiment of the present invention ~~[[as]]~~ is shown in FIGURE 6. Wildcard elements are listed in decreasing precedence in column 604 of table 600. (For the purpose herein, a "character range" refers to some finite set of characters. When matching a resource string if a character, when being matched against a corresponding character range element in the wildcarded identifier, a match is said to occur if the character ~~[[is]]~~ in the resource string is contained in the set of characters represented by the character range. Additionally, any wildcarded identifier element may be marked as repeating in which case the element will match one or more occurrences of matching characters in the resource identifier.) A precedence value is associated with each type of wildcard element, as shown in column 602 of table 600. Note that lower numerical precedence values are associated with higher precedence, and conversely higher numerical precedence values are associated with elements having lower precedence in the embodiment of the present invention corresponding to table 600. However, an embodiment of the present invention in which higher numerical precedence are associated with wildcard elements having higher precedence could be used, and such embodiments ~~which~~ fall within the spirit and scope of the present invention. (These alternative embodiments would correspond to, for example, in the ordering algorithm being used to correspond with a binary relationship "greater than" between pairwise elements, and a binary relationship "less than" between element pairs, respectively.)

Returning to FIGURE 5, if, in step ~~[[608]]~~ 508, the element pairs being compared have the same precedence, ~~that in step 610 then in step 510~~ the next elements in each identifier of the pair are selected, ~~step 510~~ and compared by returning to step 508. In other words, process 500 loop through elements of each identifier pair until a mismatch in precedence is found.